Leather Industry

4521. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the leather industry has been included in small scale industry;

(b) if so, the number of people employed in different sectors in the said industry;

(c) whether a large number of multinationals are setting up their manufacturing units in the country in the said trade;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken to safeguard the indigenous industry?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) SSI Sector is predominant in manufacturing Semitanned-leather and Leather products like leather shoes and Fancy Leather Goods. However, about 240 medium/large scale manufacturing units are also engaged in the leather sector.

(b) It has been estimated that leather sector provides direct employment for about 1.5 million people in India. Out of them, 6 lakhs persons are employed in flaying and carcass recovery of hides and skins and over 7 lakhs persons are engaged in cottage and small scale industries. Around 1 lakh artisans are estimated to be involved in the repair work of leather goods mostly footwear. About 1 lakh persons are also employed in the medium and large scale sector, mostly in tanneries and footwear manufacturing units.

(c) After process of liberalisation of the economy commenced in July, 1991, Multinational Companies like ADIDAS of Germany, Lotto of Italy, Bally International of Switzerland, Lotus of U.K. and Reebok of U.S.A. have started their manufacturing base in India.

(d) Since July, 1991 about 99 technical, financial and marketing foreign collaborations took place in the field of leather product sector.

(e) In other to safeguard the interests of SSI in India, maufacturing of most of leather products continues to be reserved for the SSI sector.

Unauthorised Tea Gardens in West Bengal

4522. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1603 dated August 11, 1995 regarding unauthorised tea gardens in West Bengal and state;

(a) whether the Government collected the requisite information from the Government of West Bengal so far;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to get the information at an early date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b). The information furnished by the State Government of West Bengal indicates that according to the survey conducted by the State Govt. some new tea plantations have come up in the districts of Darjeeling, Uttar Dinajpur, Jalpaiguri and Coochbehar during the last few years.

So far, 229 new gardens spread over four districts have been surveyed as per the details given below:

District	No. of Gardens (app.)	Area covered (acres)
Darjeeling	21	1,302
Uttar Dinajpur	113	18,863
Jalpaiguri	90	15,711
Cochbehar	05	5,00

Government of West Bengal have informed that since there is no provision in the West Bengal Land Reforms Act regarding the new tea gardens, nothing can be done for the present to regularise them.

Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has informed that question does not pertain to their area of operation. Tea Board have also not given recommendation for floating shares in the open market by such gardens.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

[Translation]

Silk Yarn Bank Scheme

4523. SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH:
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH:
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government provide financial assistance for the implementation of Silk-yarn Bank Scheme;